UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Forest Pest Management
Box 5895, Asheville, N. C. 28803

REPLY TO: 5230 Evaluations

June 13, 1975

SUBJECT: SPB - Camp Lejeune Marine Base

TO: Frank M. Yasinski, Leader
Forest Pest Management Group

On April 15 and 16 I visited the Camp Lejeune Marine Base near Jacksonville, N. C. The purpose of the trip was to observe the southern pine beetle outbreak at Camp Lejeune and to inform the officials at the Base that the U. S. Forest Service has responsibilities for forest insect and disease problems on all federal lands. In addition, I wanted to pursue the possibility of conducting a field test of a method to suppress the southern pine beetle at Camp Lejeune during the summer and fall of 1975.

On April 15 I met with Mr. Carroll Russell, the Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, and Mr. Ralph Gurganus, Base Forester. We discussed their beetle problem, and I explained to Mr. Russell that our role (Forest Pest Management) was to provide technical assistance and possibly even financial assistance if they wanted to submit a project proposal to suppress the southern pine beetle.

Following our discussion, Mr. Gurganus, Forester Pete Black, and I made an aerial survey of the 69,000-acre area. On the survey I observed approximately 300 beetle spots ranging in size from single trees to 50 red and fading trees. I also saw many larger beetle spots that were no longer actively infested. Mr. Gurganus explained that they had removed by commercial sales all of the larger active spots during the winter. On the aerial survey I saw where 1,800 acres of beetle infestations had been removed. Fourteen million board feet of timber, worth $525,000, from beetle spots had been sold. At that time they had 12 logging operators working to remove the infestations. This was the most aggressive effort to remove beetle infestations that I had ever witnessed.

After the aerial survey, I talked with Colonel Von Orde, Jr., Base Maintenance Officer, about the beetle problem at Camp Lejeune. I told him that the outbreak had been severe and that the foresters were doing an excellent job in suppressing the beetle. I also told him that even though they had done a good job there was still a strong potential for the outbreak to continue during the summer of 1975.

I told Colonel Von Orde of our plans to conduct a field test using the phloem mobile systemic Orthene and that we would like to conduct the test at Camp Lejeune if the proposal were accepted and if the population remained high on the Base. I told him that the test was a new concept in beetle suppression and that it would involve spraying 15 infestations (about 90 trees) from the air, possibly by helicopter. He told me they would be happy to have the test conducted at Camp Lejeune. He said they had agreed to let Dr. Fred Hain of North Carolina State work on his study in population dynamics at Camp Lejeune and that we may want to confer with Dr. Hain to see if there would be any conflict. (I have talked with Dr. Hain and there is no conflict. In fact, we may be able to cooperate with his group to some extent.) I told Colonel Von Orde that we would let him know as soon as possible if we could conduct the test at Camp Lejeune.

My visit to Camp Lejeune was both enjoyable and interesting. I have never met people who were more accommodating. We would be fortunate to work with the Base on the field test. I would like to let them know as soon as possible if we can conduct the test at Camp Lejeune.

James D. Ward

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